

To: Brooks, Karl[brooks.karl@epa.gov]
Cc: Levine, Carolyn[Levine.Carolyn@epa.gov]
From: Palmer, Downey (Blunt)
Sent: Thur 10/3/2013 4:04:49 PM
Subject: FW: [FWD: Gov't Shutdown, EPA, and West Lake Landfill]
[92713responselettertousepa-gcptworkplan-final.pdf](#)
[LF-West Lake-RSG Gamma Cone Plan to EPA.pdf](#)

Karl- who is the EPA contact on Westlake is during furlough?

From: esmith@moenviron.org [mailto:esmith@moenviron.org]
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2013 11:55 AM
To: Palmer, Downey (Blunt)
Subject: [FWD: Gov't Shutdown, EPA, and West Lake Landfill]
Importance: High

Downy,

See below and thanks for your time on the phone.

~Ed

Ed Smith

Safe Energy Director

Missouri Coalition for the Environment

(314) 705-4975

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----- Original Message -----

Subject: Gov't Shutdown, EPA, and West Lake Landfill

From: <esmith@moenviron.org>

Date: Thu, October 03, 2013 10:05 am

To: "Karl Brooks" <brooks.karl@epa.gov>, Tapia.Cecilia@epa.gov, "Debbie

Kring" <kring.debbie@epa.gov>

Cc: "Joeana Middleton" <Joeana_Middleton@mccaskill.senate.gov>, "Lou Aboussie" <Lou.Aboussie@mail.house.gov>, "Kerry DeGregorio" <Kerry_DeGregorio@blunt.senate.gov>, "Bill Otto" <Bill.Otto@house.mo.gov>, "Brecht Mulvihill" <Brecht.Mulvihill@mail.house.gov>, "Kat Smith" <klogansmith@moenviron.org>, hnavarro@moenviron.org

Administrator Brooks,

I called Dan Gravatt's (EPA West Lake project manager) phone number and it appears he is on furlough until the government shutdown is over per his voice mail recording.

Will the Gamma Cone Penetration Test (GCPT) that Republic Services wants to conduct sometime between now and Oct. 10 be monitored by EPA Region 7 for quality assurance and protection of workers/fence-line communities?

Republic Services mentions that ground clearing will be needed to conduct this testing. Will there be equipment set up around the perimeter of the landfill to test for Alpha, Beta, and Gamma radioactivity in real time? If so, what is the protocol for alerting surrounding communities if there is a threat to public health? The reason we are concerned is because Republic Services calls for the use of a **"brush hog" to clear paths for the testing**, which EPA Region 7 has opposed in a comment letter on the plan.

Can Republic Services begin the GCPT work without EPA consent? Has the EPA given consent to start the testing?

Will the GCPT be in any way impacted by the shutdown as it relates to EPA oversight on the GCPT specifically or West Lake management in general?

Please do not consider these questions as part of the monthly exchange between MCE and EPA Region 7. These questions are particularly important considering the government shutdown and expected site study that will be conducted at West Lake, possibly during the government shutdown.

Who should people contact at EPA Region 7 with concerns if activity begins at the landfill and the government is still shutdown?

MCE was caught off-guard by the letter from Republic Services to EPA that was posted on the DNR website on Oct 2 saying it was going to begin work by Oct. 10 or sooner.

MCE would like clarity from the EPA about what is being done to address public safety during the GCPT work, who at EPA can be contacted during shutdown for concerns at the landfill if/when work starts, and what EPA is doing to monitor West Lake during the shutdown, **all before Republic Services is allowed to begin work at the landfill.**

An immediate response is much appreciated given the timely nature of our concerns.

Thanks,

Ed Smith

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Safe Energy Director

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